IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM

PRESENT :

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE V.RAMKUMAR

THURSDAY, THE 4TH OCTOBER 2007 / 12TH ASWINA 1929

Crl.Rev.Pet.No. 3573 of 2007()

CRA.358/2006 of ADDL. SESSIONS COURT-II, MAVELIKKARA
CC.803/2005 of JUDL.MAGISTRATE OF FIRST CLASS, KAYAMKULAM

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REVN. PETITIONER: APPELLANT/ACCUSED:

HAFZA, AGED 40 YEARS,
W/O. AHAMMED KUNJU,LIJINA MANZIL,ELIPPAKKULAM MURI
KATTARAMI VILLAGE, CHOOND P.O.

BY ADV. SRI. K.SHAJ
SRI.B.BALRAJ
SRI.SAJJU.S

RESPONDENTS: COMPLAINANT/STATE:

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1. ASHALATHA, AGED 43 YEARS,
D/O. DEVAKY, RAJU SADANAM, VETTIKODE MURI,
KATTANAM VILLAGE.

2. STATE OF KERALA,
REPRESENTED BY THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR,
HIGH COURT OF KERALA, ERNAKULAM.

BY ADV. SRI. K.S. SIVAKUMAR, PUBLIC PROSECUTOR

THIS CRIMINAL REVISION PETITION HAVING COME UP FOR ADMISSION ON 04/10/2007, THE COURT ON THE SAME DAY PASSED THE FOLLOWING:

V.RAMKUMAR, J.

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Crl.R.P. No. 3573 of 2007

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Dated this the 4th day of October, 2007

O R D E R

In this Revision filed under Section 397 read with Sec. 401 Cr.P.C. the petitioner who was the accused in C.C. No. 803 of 2005 on the file of the J.F.C.M, Kayamkulam challenges the conviction entered and the sentence passed against him for an offence punishable under Sec. 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Act').

2. I heard the learned counsel for the Revision Petitioner and the learned Public Prosecutor.

3. The learned counsel appearing for the Revision Petitioner re-iterated the contentions in support of the Revision. The courts below have concurrently held that the cheque in question was drawn by the petitioner in favour of the complainant on the drawee bank, that the cheque was validly presented to the bank, that it was dishonoured for reasons which fall under Section 138 of the Act, that the complainant made a demand for payment by a notice in time in accordance with clause (b) of the proviso to Section 138 of the Act and that the Revision Petitioner/accused failed to make the payment within 15 days of receipt of the statutory notice. Both the courts have considered and rejected the defence set up by the revision petitioner while entering the above finding. The said finding has been recorded on an appreciation of the oral and documentary evidence. I do not find any error, illegality or impropriety in the finding so recorded concurrently by the courts below. The conviction was thus rightly entered against the petitioner.

4. What now survives for consideration is the question as to whether a proper sentence has been imposed on the Revision Petitioner. Having regard to the facts and circumstances of the case, I am, however, inclined to modify the sentence imposed on the revision petitioner. Accordingly, if the revision petitioner pays to the first respondent complainant by way of compensation under Sec. 357 (3) Cr.P.C. a sum of Rs. 4,00,000/- (Rupees Four lakh only) within **six months** from today, then he need to undergo only imprisonment till the rising of the court. If the revision petitioner commits default in making the payment as aforesaid, he shall undergo simple imprisonment for three months by way of default sentence.

5. Amount, if any, paid by the revision petitioner pursuant to the orders, passed by the lower appellate court shall be refunded to the petitioner.

This Revision is disposed of confirming the conviction but modifying the sentence as above.

V. RAMKUMAR, JUDGE.

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